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PEORIA AND PEKIN UNION RAILWAY COMPANY

303 WESLEY RD / CREVE COEUR IL 61610 / TEL 309 694-8338 FAX 309 694-8336

2003 MAY 30 P 4: 11

LAURENCE M. RADA
General Manager

May 30, 2003

Docket Management Facility (USCG-2001-10881)
U.S. Department of Transportation
Room PL-401
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

RE: USCG-2001-10881 -7

Dear Sirs:

This is in regard to proposed revisions to Title 33, CFR Part 117 dated April 17, 2003.

The Peoria and Pekin Union Ry. Co. has a vertical lift bridge located on the Illinois River at Mile 160.7 in Peoria, Illinois. Our comments are as follows.

First as concerns Section 117.35 -- Scheduled Maintenance - the proposed notice of 90 days prior to the start of the work is unrealistic. We have worked throughout the years with our local Coast Guard District with a typical notification of 30 days in advance without any problems among the various parties affected. Generally our scheduled maintenance is easier to schedule and we are more certain in setting a date 30 days in advance, rather than 90 days.

Secondly as concern Section 117.55 -- Posting Requirements -- the proposed posting of a sign would not be beneficial and would cost us, the bridge owner, a significant amount of time and money in initially furnishing the sign and its maintenance. Furthermore, the size of the sign would be too substantial. We do not now have any problems with any watercraft as all vessels call our bridge operator on a marine radio. The bridge operator is stationed at the end of the bridge 24/7, 365 days a year. We primarily pass commercial vessels and the vast majority of recreational vessels can pass without our bridge being raised. To have to post a sign would place an unreasonable burden and cost upon the P&PU.

J.H. Rada